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The Voice of the Turtle

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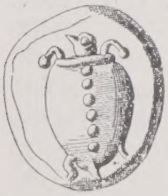

COVER COIN: PTOLEMY III EVERGETES (247-222 B.C.). AU. OBVERSE BUST RADIATE, WITH AEGIS, TRIDENT AND SCEPTRE COMBINED.

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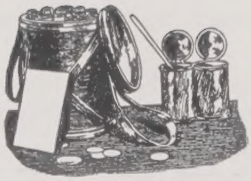
From the Editor's Desk



It is necessary to recognize that there are two different groups of people who work with ancient coins. There are those who study the coins for their historical value, the numismatists; and those who collect them for whatever other pleasure is derived. Because these two groups deal with the same media, the distinction between student and collector is obscured. The cleavage between the two groups is ameliorated since numismatists frequently collect, and collectors often become students of their coins.

Our highly esteemed friend, the editor of the *Numismatic Review*, recently pondered the problem, in an editorial entitled "The Prevalence of Amateurs" of how it was that anyone who worked with coins found himself willing to express opinions without either knowledge or authority. How, he asked, can a man with little preparation set his opinions against those of a devoted person who has quietly pursued his field for many years? Mr. Risk then surmised that the answer might lie in the American attitude toward egalitarianism, the notion that "one man's opinion is as good as another's." He is distressed that such an attitude can exist in any intellectual exercise where opinion ought to be weighed by the qualifications of the holder.

What isn't often realized is that this schism does exist between collector and numismatist. Any collector with a little ambition can quickly learn almost any bit of technical data which applies to modern U. S. coinage. Is he to be too harshly criticized for not realizing that the same effort will not so reward him if the subject is, let us say, Roman coins?

Caught squarely on the horns of this dilemma is the *Voice of the Turtle*. Our readership consists of both collectors and scholars. Both groups, because they deal with the same artifacts and use the same terminology, believe that what they say is evident to anyone. What is not understood is that there is a communications barrier between student and collector—one made worse since few realize that it is there.

The solution is to break this distinction between collector and numismatist. The magazine has long held that it must serve the serious student, since one more collector's magazine would have little justification for its existence. At the same time that the *Turtle* has got to be devoted to serious numis-

matics, the attempt is made to introduce the collector to the much wider vistas to which his coins can lead him.

For the collector cannot be ignored. As Mrs. Clain-Stefanelli brought home recently in her beautiful book on the history of numismatics as a science, our discipline has an enormous debt to the collector who, with his passion for classification, led to the massive job of attribution and cataloging. It was the collector and his desire to know more about his coins which brought their significance as historical documents to the attention of scholars. The wellsprings of numismatics might soon run dry if the collector were to be set aside and his interests ignored.

We perceive then our duty as more complex than the mere publication of expertise for the students of the field. It is also our obligation to devote attention to the collector, to encourage him and finally to lead him across that invisible boundary which separates him from the numismatist.

One ingredient cannot be supplied by us, or anyone else. That secret, elusive thing is desire—the desire of the collector to learn and increase his knowledge.

Numismatics is not an easy field. Were it so, all would have been known years ago and research long since would have come to an end. The fact that controversy rages, that new theories are set forth and that there is continuing research is ample indication that our field is neither sterile nor complete.

Numismatics needs fresh insight and new approaches. The data, the coins and their interpretation, unlike material in physics, is available to both amateur and professional alike. To those collectors who possess the secret ingredient, desire, the possibilities of contribution to the discipline are excellent. The way is difficult, much reading and studying is necessary, but the well deserved results can be reward in themselves.

The people for whom there is no hope, nor anything to be gained from this journal, are those who delight in being perpetual amateurs. These get their biggest thrills from the same old simple corn, reground. They have no desire. They are afraid to move forward, unwilling to make the effort that study requires.

What our coins mean to us as individuals and what we do with them remains for each of us an individual choice. So long as many of us respond to the mystery and romance of antiquity found revealed in the coins while others do not or can not, the communications barrier will continue to exist. That few of us are so deadened in our sensitivity is evidenced by the response of the world to this magazine and what it is attempting to do.—JOHN E. HARTMANN, *editor*

BYZANTIUM AND NUMISMATICS

Addenda to the Select Bibliography

by Aloisius Barozzi

In the *Voice of the Turtle 4*, 1965, pp. 229-242, a bibliography was published to assist students of Byzantine numismatics and collectors of Byzantine coins. In revising and enlarging this bibliography for the forthcoming book *Byzantium and Numismatics*, it was thought that it would be helpful to *Turtle* readers currently engaged in Byzantine numismatic research to publish the addenda here first.

In the few months which have elapsed since the first publication of the bibliography, a number of important works have been published on Byzantine numismatics as well as several important articles. To these have been added entries which were inadvertently missed in the first attempt or which were not included due to space limitations. I have followed here the same section divisions used for the original select bibliography to which the reader may wish to refer for the main headings and further information.

A1—Basic Handbooks and Bibliographical Aids

moss h. st. l. b., *The Birth of the Middle Ages 395-814*. Oxford 1935. (Repr. in pb. 1963. $1.85)

A helpful and inspired introduction to the age of the rise of the Byzantine Empire. Part II, *The Triumph of Justinian*, examines factually the relations of Justinian with the East and the West and concludes with a superb *Aftermath* in which the decline and fall of the Byzantine West is described in a historical text of outstanding value and style.

muralt, e. de, *Essai de Chronologie Byzantine (de 395 à 1057)*. Paris 1963. $25.00

The most recent and detailed handbook valuable for the study of chronological problems related to the early Byzantine Empire. Bibliography, notes.

A2—Reference Histories

diener, bertha, *Imperial Byzantium*. Boston 1938

A very readable account of Byzantine history, although sometimes dramatized to extreme. Good index.

ostrogorsky, george, *History of the Byzantine State*. Out of print. New edition in preparation.

A3—Reference Histories of the Latin Conquest and the Minor Byzantine Empires and Despotates

geanakoplos, deno john, *Byzantine East and Latin West*. Oxford 1966

An excellent account of the relations between Byzantium and the kingdoms of the West. A completely up to date work and a necessary reference, especially for the numismatist and historian studying East-West relationships.

LONGNON, J., *L'Empire latin de Constantinople et la principalite de Morée.* Paris 1949. $2.50

The basic reference book for the relations between the Latin emperors of Constantinople and the Despotate of Morea.

A4—BYZANTINE ART, ETC.

AINALOV, D. V., *The Hellenistic Origins of Byzantine Art.* Trans. by E. & S. Sobolevitch, New Brunswick, N.J. 1961. $12.50

Important for the student of the art in Byzantine coin types and sigillographic monuments.

MARTIN, E. J., *History of the Iconoclastic Controversy.* London 1930.

The basic reference work for the period so important to the development of Byzantine art and coinage.

RICE D. TALBOT (ED.), *The Dawn of European Civilization.* New York 1966. $28.50

A valuable introductory work, richly illustrated in color and black and white with important chapters on Byzantium and its neighbors. Coins are studied and illustrated, together with contemporary monuments. From the contents we note the following chapters: Rice, D. Talbot, "The Myth of the 'Dark Ages,'" Oates, D., "The Rise and Fall of Sassanian Iran," Nersessian, S., "Armenia and its Divided History," Mango, C., "Byzantium from Justinian to Theophilus," Hussey, J. M., "The Byzantine World in the Ninth and Tenth Centuries," Rice, T. Talbot, "Eastern Europe and the Rise of the Slavs," Bullough, D., "The Ostrogothic and Lombard Kingdoms," Culician, W., "Spain under the Visigoths and Moors," Lasko, P., "The Frankish Kingdom from the Merovingians to Pepin," Wilson, D.M., "The Norsemen and their Forerunners," Thomas, C., "Celtic Britain and the Anglo-Saxons," Grierson, P., "Charlemagne and the Carolingian Achievement," Bullough, D., "The Empire under the Ottonians," Hay, D., "Mediaeval Europe Takes Shape."

This book is a necessary volume for the library of any scholar or student of the Byzantine era, civilization and coinage. It is not only an excellent guide and instructive introduction to the history and art of Byzantium, but also to the art and history of the peoples who developed to be the leaders of modern Europe.

B1—BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AIDS

Dictionary Catalogue of the Library of the American Numismatic Society. 7 vols. G. K. Hall & Co. Boston 1962

Available only in the largest libraries, but the best bibliographical aid for serious researchers in the numismatic field, to the best of our knowledge.

GRIERSON, P., *Coins and Medals: A Select Bibliography.* London 1954. (Helps for Students of History No. 56)

A fine annotated selection of the most basic reference books, but very short (88 pp.) to attempt to cover the entire field of numismatics.

BAROZZI, A., "Byzantium and Numismatics: An Annotated Select Bibliography, "in *Voice of the Turtle* 4, 1965 (October), pp. 229-242. Addenda. *ibidem* 6, 1966 (June), pp. 165-174.

GABARRON, J. J. (ED.), *Library Catalog of the American Numismatic Association.* Lincoln, Nebraska 1962.

The acquisitions of the library are published monthly in the *Numismatist.* Members of the ANA may request books on loan by mail, paying postage both ways.

The most specialized among the serials published in the United States are the:

Dumbarton Oaks Papers (1941—). I-XII (out of print); XIII (1959) — XIX (1965) available. Many valuable monographs on numismatics.

Numismatic Literature (1947—). Published quarterly by the American Numismatic Society, New York. Editor, Richard P. Breaden, Chief Librarian.

A special section in each issue lists new books, monographs, articles and notes on Byzantine numismatics on an international scale as they are entered in the largest numismatic library in the world. Annual index.

B2—INTRODUCTIONS

LHOTKA, J. G. JR., *Introduction to East Roman Coinage.* ANA reprint. Lincoln, Nebraska 1965. $4.00

The three excellent articles introductory to Byzantine numismatics have been reprinted in one volume by the ANA. Several new charts and plates have been added by the author in the reprint illustrating coins from his collection. A necessary "primer" for all collectors and students of Byzantine coins.

B3—BASIC REFERENCES

WROTH, WARWICK, *Imperial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum.* (Repr. 2 vols. in 1) Argonaut Publishers. Chicago 1966. $50.00

The basic reference book for Byzantine numismatics available after being out of print for over 50 years. Indispensable, excellent plates.

———, *Western and Provincial Byzantine Coins in the British Museum: The Coins of the Vandals, Ostrogoths, Lombards, etc.* (Repr.) Argonaut Publishers. Chicago 1966. $25.00

The third voume of the "corpus" of Byzantine coins. The new title, justified by the contents, gives a more clear indication of the contents of the volume to the beginner. Excellent plates.

STEARNS, J. B. & HALL, V. JR., *Byzantine Gold Coins*. Hanover, N.H. 1953. $2.00

A small but valuable handbook on Byzantine gold with fine illustrations.

MUNCHNER MUNZHANDLUNG KARL KRESS, *Auction Catalog 135*. March 15, 1966.

With the addition of prices realized in this very important auction, the catalogue becomes a veritable "Byzantine Coins and Their Values," a book much desired, but so far never produced. Contains an excellent collection of gold, silver and bronze with some unique pieces illustrated in the fine plates.

BELLINGER, A. R., *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and the Whittemore Collection* (In preparation. Pub. date to be announced)

This work is expected to become the best "addenda et corrigenda" to the previous bibliography on Byzantine coins. There are no details available as to price, size, etc. and the title as listed above is subject to change.

RETOWSKI, O., *Die Münzen der Komnenen von Trapezunt*. Moscow 1910. (To be repr. by Argonaut Publishers 1967)

This most rare monograph, considered by W. Wroth and other leading scholars of Byzantine numismatics to be the most important work on the subject, has not been readily available for reference. The book is included neither in the library of the American Numismatic society nor in any of the leading United States public or university libraries. Only one copy has been seen by the author, that in the reference library of Coin Galleries in New York. It is paperbound and there is no hint in it that it might ever have been issued other than as a book.

However, the fact is that this work appeared, a year after its publication as a book, in the Russian journal *Numizmaticheskii Svornik* I, 1911, pp. 113-302, Plates I—XV. It seems likely that as the journal was being prepared, the author was permitted to issue his work as a book, so it bears the date 1910, whereas the volume of *Numizmaticheskii Svornik* was not completed and issued until 1911. The first volume of the Russian journal published by the Moscow Numismatic Society is available in the ANS library and perhaps in other United States libraries.

B4—GENERAL NUMISMATIC REFERENCE

ADELSON, HOWARD L., "Silver currency and values in the early Byzantine empire," in *Centennial publication of the American Numismatic Society*, Ingholt, H., ed. New York 1958.

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An illustrated catalogue of 321 Byzantine bronze weights.

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WHITTING, P. D., "The Byzantine Empire and the Coinage of the Anglo-Saxons," in *Anglo-Saxon Coins*. Dolley, R.H.M., ed. London 1961

———, "An Heraclius Die Identity, in *Numismatic Circular* 72, 1964, p. 134

——, and Bridge, R.N., "A Hoard of Early Heraclius Folles," in *Numismatic Circular* 74, 1966, pp. 131-132

ZACOS, G. AND VEGLERY, A., "An Unknown Solidus of Anastasius I," in *Numismatic Circular* 67, 1959, pp. 154-155, illus.

———, "Marriage Solidi of the Fifth Century," in *Numismatic Circular* 68, 1960, pp. 73-74

——, "C for Sigma on Coins of the Eleventh Century," in *Numismatic Circular* 68, 1960, pp. 145-157

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——, "Enigmatic Inscriptions on Byzantine Coins," in *Numismatic Circular* 63, 1955 (March)

———, "New Light on the Solidus of Leo IV," in *Numismatic Circular* 69, 1961, pp. 30-31

———, "The Coins of Andronicos II with the Inscription Emperors of the Romans," in *Numismatic Circular* 69, 1961, pp. 134-136 and 159-162

———, "Silver Coins of Andronikos II and Andronikos III," in *Numismatic Circular* 70, 1962, pp. 76-80

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LOOKING AT OVERSEAS AUCTIONS AND PRICE LISTS

In response to several requests, this feature will appear in the Turtle from time to time, in an effort to keep American collectors abreast of sales and prices of ancient coins abroad.

NUMISMATICA: A. Marchesiello, Viale Stazione 81, Foggia, Italy.

Printed in booklet form, this illustrated list 1-1966 includes Greek and Roman coins. Some typical prices: *Velia* (540-500 BC) Stater, BMC 110, $64.00; BMC 74, $80.00; *Augustus*, Cohen 309, Sestertius VG, $24.00; *Domitian*, Cohen 440 F, Sestertius, $8.00. Numismatic books are also listed, e.g. Mead, *Historia Numorum* (repr. 1963) listed as 20,000 Italian lire ($32.00 U.S.).

NUMISMATICA: Giuseppe de Falco, Corso Umberto 1, Naples, Italy.

List No. 72, March, 1966. Roman coins listed pp. 4-9 with a rich selection and a wide variety of prices. *Tiberius*, Denarius, Cohen 16 in VF, $28.80; *Pupienus*, Antoninianus, Cohen 25 (Rare) in EF, $80.00; *Maxentius*, Br. follis in EF, Cohen 126, $16.00. Numismatic books appear on p. 28. Vaillant, J. *Numismata Imperatorum*, Paris 1698, $4.80.

THE RICHARD J. GRAHAM COLLECTION of Ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine Coins: Jacques Schulman N. V., Keizergracht 448, Amsterdam, Holland.

This is a catalogue with 40 plates of the auction held June 8-10 in Amsterdam, available for $2.50. Presumably this will be available after the auction together with prices realized, but there could be an additional charge for the latter. Please contact Mr. Schulman for this information.

NEW BOOKS ON NUMISMATICS: Munzen und Medaillen A.G., Malzgasse 25, Basel, Switzerland.

A 16 page booklet of books with sections on general Ancient, Foreign and Swiss numismatics plus a section of archaeology books. Despite the title "New," the catalogue includes only a handful of books published in 1966, and most works are from 1963 to 1965.

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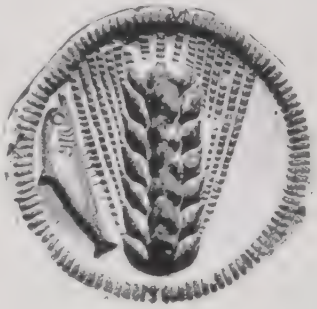

If you have not received our latest list, please request one. This list includes a Syracuse dekadrachm and several coins seldom seen even in the more important auction sales. We have two coin cabinets for sale at $30.00 and $100.00 (holds over 400 coins).

HELLENIC-ROMAN COINS

BOX 326

HEWITT, NEW JERSEY

A NOTE ON WAGES IN THE FIRST CENTURY A.D.

by A. J. Anderson

The parable of the laborers found in Chapter XX of St. Matthew's Gospel wherein the wage received is a denarius (XX:9) has led to the presumption that the denarius represented the average wage in that period.

There is no particular reason to dispute this text, and in fact the very casualness with which references to money are treated in the New Testament increases their validity. Since the author is not a theologian or special student of biblical exegesis, he must accept the findings of scholars who attribute the authorship of Matthew to the period of the Flavian emperors, roughly 70-90 AD.

It is interesting therefore to compare this text to a papyrus of the same period which related to the accounts of a legionaire.

While our sources for legionary pay are not profuse, they are sufficient for us to draw some general sort of picture of a fairly long period. Polybius tells us that in the second century BC, a common soldier's pay was two obols per day. We know that Augustus standardized army wages at 225 denarii per year. The pay was again increased to near 300 denarii under Domitian, and to 500 by Septimius Severus.

All pay was subject to deductions for equipment and various items of maintenance. Soldiers during the imperial period also received donatives upon the accession of emperors and other special occasions.

The papyrus in question, (*Geneva Latin Papyrus* No. 1), presents some difficulties in interpretation. First of all, the pay recorded is in drachmae rather than denarii and this again raises the perplexed question of the relation of the denarius and the drachma. Were the two words used interchangeably for the same coin depending on whether the author was Latin or Greek speaking? Were the two coins identical? The weight of evidence seems to be that the Attic tetradrachm was exchangeable for three denarii, thus relating the drachma to the denarius at ¾ths. It is my personal opinion that the numbers given in the papyrus must be multiplied by ¾ to be expressed in denarii.[1]

The second problem of the papyrus is that the account seems to be that of a cavalryman. Turning again to the literary sources, it seems evident that a cavalryman received more pay than a common legionaire.

Nevertheless, our papyrus, dated in the year 3 of the Emperor Titus Vespasianus Augustus and the consulship of Lucius Flavius and Lucius Asinus (81 AD) gives us some of the following information.

A soldier, one Quintus Julius Proculus, from Damascus received his first salary payment for the third year of the emperor of 248 drachmae. He had deductions of 10 drachmae for hay, 80 for rations, 12 for boots, 20 for the camp Saturnalia and 60 for clothing. 66 drachmae were then deposited to his account.

He received a second installment of salary in the same year this time with total deductions of 106 drachmae and 142 deposited to his account. His third and final installment of 248 drachmae was entirely consumed by deductions. His net pay, after deductions was 208 drachmae.

It is interesting to note that a phrase "to the standards" is used in connection wih a deduction of 4 drachmae. It is believed that this referred to the burial insurance to which other sources refer. It is also interesting to note that our soldier paid 206 drachmae for clothing alone, not including his boots.

The close relation between the army pay indicated in the papyrus and the pay of casual labor as indicated by the author of Matthew's Gospel makes our general presumption of a denarius a day not too far out of line.

[1]If we take the year's total of 744 drachmae and multiply by ¾ we get 558 denarri presuming that this is correct. If the cavalryman's pay was twice that of the common soldier (225 x 2) 550 denarii would be his payment. There seems to be no reason to assume the Augustan standard of 225 denarii per year was raised prior to the time of Domitian.

MAIL BID SALE

The following coins will be sold individually to the person or company submitting in writing the highest bid on or before Aug. 1, 1966. Successful bidders will be notified and coins will be shipped on receipt of payment. All coins are guaranteed genuine, and any items not as advertised may be returned within five days of receipt. No deposit is required but bidders who have not established credit with me are asked to give two references.

1. **Sicyon, 4th Cent.** BC. AR ½ drachm. Chimaera/Dove. VF.
2. **Rome (Rep.),** 145-138 BC. Pub. Sulla. Denarius, Cor. B.1. VF.
3. **Rome (Rep.),** 90-85 BC. Cn. Lentulus. Den., Corn. B. 50. Abt. EF.
4. **Rome (Rep.),** 68-55 BC. C. Scribonius. Den., Scrib. B. 7. Abt. EF.
5. **Rome,** 98-117 AD. Trajan. Denarius. Rx., Hercules. F to VF.
6. **Rome,** 238-244 AD. Gordian III. Denarius. Rx., Diana. EF/VF.
7. **Rome,** 293-305 AD. Galerius, as Caesar. AE Follis. VF-EF.
8. **Parthia,** 37-2 BC. Phraates IV. AR 4-drachm. Biblical. Nice F.
10. **Parthia,** 106-130 AD. Osroes. AE 21-22 mm. Hd. of King/ Hd. of Tyche. Dated. A scarce coin only G-VG.

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THE TURTLE SPEAKS TO ITS FRIENDS

Many thanks to our several good friends who have taken the time and trouble to write about their original membership numbers and to provide us with early lists. We now have complete records for numbers 1 through 429 and from 1,000 onward. But the numbers from 430 to 999 are scarcely accounted for, and we again request anyone having a number within this span to write, if you have not done so already, so we can fill in the gaps.

Club members may be interested to learn of the increasing international aspect of the ACCA. We now number among our new members, numismatists in India, Japan, Australia, Norway, England, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Finland, plus many Americans who are stationed overseas in every imaginable country.

The growth of our hobby, the collecting of ancient coins, has been increasing with amazing rapidity of late. This is no surprise to ACCA members, of course, but there are many dealers, previously devoted solely to modern coinage, who have expressed their amazement at the surge of interest and the growing demand for ancient, Byzantine and medieval coins. But many dealers, we are sad to say, do not have the same fine knowledge of ancient that they have for modern world and U.S. coinage, and both they and the novice collector must find adequate reference books to guide them. Experienced collectors are already aware of the impossibility of gaining the most from ancients without reference materials. With the needs of novice and expert alike in mind, we would like to receive ACCA member reaction to the following proposal.

Despite the many books which are being reprinted in our field, there are still many which are needed for reference which will either never be reprinted or which will be printed beyond the average collectors' means.

Ideally the ACCA should have a circulating reference library, but without a permanent location for its headquarters, this would be difficult, at least for the time being. Our suggestion, then, is this. Would ACCA members who are in possession of out-of-print or scarce numismatic reference works be willing to register their bibliography with the club? Then anyone desiring information from a given book could write to the keeper of the bibliography for the name and address of the owner of the book and write directly to that person for permission to borrow the book, or simply for information from it. If this idea is appealing to the *Turtle* readers, a list of those books available among us could be

printed in the *Turtle*. The names and addresses of the owners could be kept confidential except upon specific request for the use of the book, if desired, thereby eliminating any possibility of theft.

This program would create an extremely large reference library for ACCA members, and would enlarge the club's research facilities considerably. Please write to Lewis Henry if you are willing to participate in this plan.

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THE NUMISMATIC REVIEW

Vol. VII, No. 3, 1966

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The Agora and the Forum

In Athens men met in the Agora and in Rome, affairs of business and state were debated in the Forum. So "Voice of the Turtle" asks that members write us their views. These will be published for open consideration and discussion.

TO THE EDITOR: I was very interested in Father McKenzie's article on the Talents in Matthew's Gospel. I fully agree that it would be somewhat absurd for a servant to cart off a quarter of a ton of pure silver, although if the relationship of purchasing power expressed in the note is correct we are only talking about a mere million dollars or so.

The word talantiaios does indeed signify talentweight, and talanton has come to mean to weigh out or apportion. The whole text could be reduced to a mere matter of apportionment of 10:5:1 with no particular reference to actual amounts implied. This is well in line with Fr. McKenzie's reasoning.

My problem arises in connection with St. Luke, who confuses the issue no end by using the Greek term "Mina" in place of talent. Does anyone wish to hypothesize further?

ELAINE STANLEY

TO THE EDITOR: Your review in the April issue of my recent paper on the analysis of copper coins of the early Roman Empire has stimulated me to answer some of your misgivings.

The conclusions which I drew from the 14 coins which I tested are further substantiated by tests on some 200 other coins from 200 BC through 380 AD including at least 30 of the same period.

The next step of my work will be to demonstrate the accuracy of X-ray flourescence before I publish the balance of my results from testing coins.

According to my analyses, the concentrations of elements such as tin, lead, antimony, silver, iron, cobalt, nickel and arsenic vary with time in characteristic ways. Combinations of these elements in certain concentration ranges can date most coins to within 50 years and in most cases to within 25.

Recently I have discovered that six coins dated between 22-28 and attributed to Rome contain .25% to 0.3% nickel. Coins minted before and after this period have nickel concentrations of less than .05%. The unusually high nickel content does seem to point to an uncommon ore source and perhaps at some time in the future this source might even be identified.

I foresee catalogs of thousands of coin analyses in the future. The main aid will be to the archaeologist rather than

the numismatist. but the latter too. will benefit from this work.

A question which I like to pose to readers of the *Turtle* is. do you know of Roman coins of the latter half of the third century of orichalcum? I have seven specimens of one type. but I can find no reference to the use of orichalcum at this late period. Caley wishes to close the use of that metal at the time of Julia Soaemias. —Giles F. Carter, Ph.D.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE ACCA

The Ancient Coin Club of America is an organization devoted to the study of ancient. medieval and Byzantine numismatics. The history and art of these coins and their economic significance in certain periods of the study of mankind are the subjects for study by ACCA members. The aim of the club is to promote the collection of ancient coins and to aid the collector in understanding the ancient world through his coins. Members of the ACCA receive a membership card and receive monthly The North American Journal of Numismatics known more familiarly as The Voice of the Turtle. Dues are $4.00 yearly in the U.S.: $5.00 abroad. Air mail delivery is available to APO addresses for $2.00 additional per year.

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CLUB NEWS

Local chapters continue to spring up as the *Voice of the Turtle* is heard through the land. All members in the Los Angeles area are urged to contact Mr. and Mrs. R. Marx, P.O. Box 9582, in North Hollywood for information on the new chapter there. Anyone in the New York City area is invited to write to Robert J. Myers, P.O. Box 442, Lenox Hill Station, New York 10021. The first meeting of this chapter was held on May 17th and it should prove to be one of the largest since at the moment New York claims the most ACCA members. However, there were 56 at a recent Minneapolis meeting. A record? The Chicago chapter is now well established and meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the offices of Argonaut, Inc.

All chapters are invited to submit news of meeting times and projects to the editor for publication in the Turtle. New members are joining every day and in order to acquaint them with local chapters, we would like to publish regular announcements of meetings.

Due to the shortage of coins submitted for a club auction in recent weeks, Joel Malter, the auctioneer, has suggested that the club hold an auction once yearly so it can be a large and successful one. Tentatively this will be held in December and all coins should be in the hands of the auctioneer by October 1 in order to allow time for the coins to be valued and listed. Rather than sending your coins now, and perhaps having them returned due to a lack of participants, will you please write Joel Malter, P.O. Box 777, Venice, California NOW and tell him how many and what type of coins you will have available for this auction. If enough people respond in this way, we will make a definite announcement with details in the near future.

Word has just come of the local chapter in Cleveland which has 27 members. Anyone in that area who is not among the 27 is invited to contact Mr. Joseph Stein, Stein Dental Laboratory, 2010 East 102nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

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Denarius, Gordianus Pius, Rx SALVS AVGVSTI, Salus rt., M&S 129A UNC 17.00

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Antoninianus, Tacitus, TEMPORUM FELICITAS, M&S 65, Gaul, XF silvering 13.00

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Antoninianus, Florian, Rx: VIRTVS AVG Cohen #97 Rome mint, VF.. 17.00

Antoninianus, Probus, CONS II in title, Rx: CONSERVAT AVG #191 VF 20.00

(Continued next page)

Speaking of Metals: Electrum, Billon and Potin

JOHN EMERSON MCCARTHY

Beginning collectors of ancient coins are puzzled sometimes when they see in a catalogue or auction list *El.* (Electrum), *Billon*, or *Potin* instead of the more familiar *AU*, *AR* and *AE*. Here are some brief definitions of these terms for quick reference.

Electrum is a *natural* alloy of gold and silver employed by the peoples of Asia Minor and by the Ionian Greeks for the minting of coins in the earliest stages of ancient coinage. The electrum of Asia Minor is nearly 27% silver while in other areas the amount of silver is higher. Natural electrum was not used in the medieval period for coins. The "pale gold" coins of that period (nearly 50% silver) were made of a man-made mixture of metals.

Billon is an artificial base metal produced by mixing silver and copper. The proportions vary, but when the silver is less than 25%, the mixture is called "black billon." Sometimes a mixture of gold of less than 12 carats is called "billon of gold," but this term is not used in numismatics.

Potin is a brittle base metal, an artificial alloy of lead, copper, tin, zinc and 20% or less silver. It is almost indistinguishable from the "black billon" except by chemical analysis. The series of Greek Imperial Tetradrachms struck at Alexandria from the first to third centuries A.D. are usually potin, but the earlier issues are almost always billon. For this reason a distinction is made between the two terms in catalogue listings.

(Continued from page 188)

Antoninianus, Carus, Rx: PAX EXERCITI, C #56 XF 12.50
Antoninianus, Carus, Rx: CONSECRATIO, Eagle XF 20.00
Antoninianus, Numerian, Rx: FELICITAS AVG, C #14 XF 12.00
Antoninianus, Carinus, Rx: PIETAS AVG Cohn #72 XF most silvering 15.00
Antoninianus, Magnica Urbica, Rx: VENVS VICTRIX Cohen #17, XF most of silvering, weak spot on reverse 50.00
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M&S above refers to **Roman Imperial Coinage**

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Since the members have not submitted enough coins for the ACCA to hold an auction in the near future and I find I have to dispose of some of my duplicate and extra pieces I am offering them at the reserve prices that I listed when I submitted them for auction. This should give some of the members an opportunity to pick up nice coins at reasonable prices.

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M.F.I.f. Philus, Janus, S-529 VF 5.00
Anonymous, Apollo VF 5.00
L. Julius L.F. Caesar, Mars, S-593 VF 5.00
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Antoninius Pius, As, Felicitas, Corr. on beard, nice patina, very nice reverse. VF/EF 6.50
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